

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 711

(Senator Eckardt)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

**Health Occupations - Applications for Renewal of Licenses, Permits,
Certifications, or Registrations - Available by Mail**

This bill requires a health occupations board to send, by first-class mail, a renewal application at the request of a licensee, permit holder, certificate holder, or registrant, if the board otherwise sends renewal notices or other specified documents exclusively by email.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially impact the finances or operations of the health occupations boards, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 404 of 2013 authorized each health occupations board to develop a secure electronic system for the distribution of a renewed license, permit, certification, or registration. Any such system must (1) be accessible to the public for the purpose of verification of a current license, permit, certification, or registration and (2) provide the licensee, permit holder, certificate holder, or registrant the option of printing a verification of the status of their license, permit, certificate, or registration.

A board that develops such a system must discontinue sending by first-class mail a renewal notice and a renewed license, permit, certification, or registration, except upon request of the licensee, permit holder, certificate holder, or registrant. Instead, the board must send

by electronic means a renewal notice and a renewed license, permit, certificate, or registration. Generally, a board must continue to send by first-class mail an initial license, permit, certification, or registration.

Background: There are 21 health occupations boards in the State. Nearly all boards have transitioned to some form of an electronic system for the distribution of renewal notices, licenses, permits, certifications, and/or registrations.

State Fiscal Effect: While the number of individuals who will request a renewal application by mail is unknown, any increase is expected to be minimal. Additionally, as health occupations boards are required to make renewal notices and renewed licenses, permits, certifications, and registrations available via mail, the additional effort required to assemble and send any renewal applications is anticipated to be minimal. To the extent that a significant number of individuals request paper renewal applications, board expenditures may increase minimally to assemble, mail, receive, and enter the renewal applications in the electronic system.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2018
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Analysis by: Nathan W. McCurdy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510